GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1651
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2016
Bulk Drug Production
Chandrakasi Shri M.

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is losing its position as one of the major bulk drug producers of generic drugs, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
(b) the steps taken/being taken to arrest the trend and to ensure availability of indigenous life-saving drugs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a) & (b): As per information available in case of certain essential drugs as defined in National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) 2011, there is significant dependence on imports for the drugs ingredients. The Government is examining the recommendations of the Katoch Committee, which had the mandate to carefully study the whole issue of APIs of critical importance by identifying important APIs and then working out a package of interventions/concessions required to build domestic production capabilities and examine the cost implications. The Committee has since submitted its recommendation which inter-alia mentions establishment of Mega Parks for APIs with common facilities such as common Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs), Testing facilities, Captive Power Plants / assured power supply by state systems, Common Utilities/Services such as storage, testing laboratories, IPR management, designing, guest house/accommodation, etc., maintained by a separate Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV); a scheme for extending financial assistance to states to acquire land and also for setting up common facilities; revival of public sector units for starting the manufacturing of selected and very essential critical drugs (e.g. penicillins, paracetamol etc.); financial investment from the Government for development of

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clusters which may be in the form of a professionally managed dedicated equity fund for the promotion of manufacture of APIs and extending fiscal benefits to creation of the entire community cluster infrastructure and individual unit infrastructure; extension of fiscal and financial benefits to promote the bulk drugs sector; promoting stronger industry-academia interaction, synergising R&D promotion efforts by various govt. agencies; incentivising scientists, duty exemptions for capital goods imports. These recommendations are being examined in the Department for possible implementation.

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